

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/011887

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ B60C19/00, B60C23/04, B60C23/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ B60C19/00, B60C23/04, B60C23/06

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1926-1996	Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1994-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho	1971-2004	Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho	1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y A	JP 2002-331813 A (Societe de Technologie Michelin), 19 November, 2002 (19.11.02), Claims; drawings & EP 1231120 A1 & FR 2820501 A & CA 2370459 A	1, 3, 5 2, 4, 6 7-15
X Y A	US 5864056 A (Larry d. BELL), 26 January, 1999 (26.01.99), Claims; drawings (Family: none)	1, 3, 4 2, 6 7-15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
15 October, 2004 (15.10.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report
02 November, 2004 (02.11.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	JP 2003-127628 A (TÜV Automotive GmbH. Unternehmensgruppe, TÜV Süddeutschland), 08 May, 2003 (08.05.03), Claims; drawings & EP 1279526 A2 & US 2003/21330 A1	1 6
Y	JP 2003-54228 A (Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.), 26 February, 2003 (26.02.03), Claims; Par. Nos. [0004] to [0006] (Family: none)	4
Y	JP 2003-54229 A (TRW Inc.), 26 February, 2003 (26.02.03), Claims; drawings & EP 1281950 A2 & US 2003/6893 A1	4
Y A	JP 9-188113 A (Michelin Recherche et Technique S.A.), 22 July, 1997 (22.07.97), Claims; Par. Nos. [0025] to [0029], [0032] & US 5749984 A & CA 2189688 A	6 7-15
A	JP 2003-65871 A (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), 05 March, 2003 (05.03.03), Claims; Par. Nos. [0021], [0025] to [0029], [0039] (Family: none)	1,6-15

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PCT/JP2004/0011887

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

A matter common to claims 1-15 is a sensor-incorporated tire having at least two tire input detection means that detect an input from a road surface acting on a tire tread unit and are attached in a tread rubber on the radial-direction outer side of a tire belt layer. However, our search has found that this sensor-incorporated tire is disclosed in JP 2002-331813, US 5864056, JP 2003-127628 and therefore is not novel.

Consequently, the common matter (sensor-incorporated tire) is not a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, since the sensor-incorporated tire makes no contribution over (continued to extra sheet.)

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet(2)

the prior art.

Therefore, there exists no matter common to all the claims. Accordingly, the number of inventions in the international application is two, that is, the inventions in claims 1-5 relating to a sensor-incorporated tire and the inventions in claims 6-15 relating to a method of estimating tire conditions from contact lengths at at least two locations on the tire tread unit.